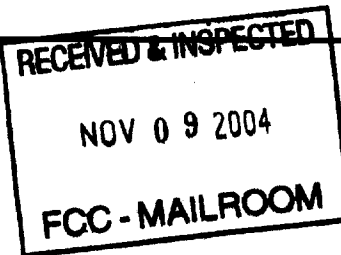




American Association of
State Highway and
Transportation Officials



04-374

J. Bryan Nicol, President
Commissioner
Indiana Department of Transportation

John Horsley
Executive Director

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

November 2, 2004

Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street S.W.
TW-A325
Washington D.C. 20554

Dear Sir or Madame:

Enclosed are an original and nine copies of AASHTO's comments concerning Geophysical Survey Systems, Inc. Request for Waiver of Section 15.509 (d) of the Commission's Rules.

Do not hesitate to so inform me should you have further comments or questions regarding this submittal.

Yours truly,

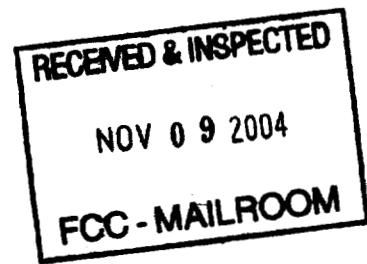
John Horsley
Executive Director

JH: LAM

Enclosures

No. of Copies rec'd
List ABCDE

0+8



Before the

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of

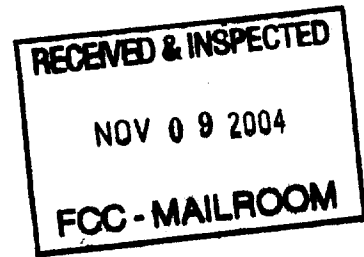
Geophysical Survey Systems, Inc.
Request for Waiver of Section 15.509 (d)
Of the Commission's Rules

)
)
)
)
)

ET Docket No. 04-374

REQUEST FOR WAIVER

**Comments of the
American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials**



**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Geophysical Survey Systems, Inc.)	ET Docket No. 04-374
Request for Waiver of Section 15.509 (d))	
Of the Commission's Rules)	

**COMMENTS OF
THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS**

Background Information

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) respectfully submits these Comments in the above-captioned Request for Waiver.

AASHTO is the national association of the state departments of highways and transportation in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Affiliate and Associate members include City, County and other transportation authorities. Its scope includes all five principal transportation modes, and its major purpose is to foster the development, operation and maintenance of an integrated national transportation system.

Currently twelve member departments operate ground penetrating radar equipment. This equipment is vital to the safe and efficient construction of the surface transportation system. The total dollar investment in this equipment for one member departments exceeds one million dollars. This does not include the user cost savings of expedited highway construction and minimizing user delays in works

zones. The prohibition on the continued use of this equipment would result in a significant negative financial and operational impact to the nations surface transportation system.

The AASHTO Technology Implementation Group (TIG) selected Ground Penetrating Radar as an innovative technology in July 2002 to showcase, fund, and implement throughout the AASHTO membership. AASHTO believes that GPR is a critical technology that will assist DOT's with the management of their transportation networks. This belief is based on documented routine use experiences from States such as Texas, Florida, Minnesota, and Utah. AASHTO believes that the use of GPR will allow the State DOT's to allocate funds and improve safety for the traveling public and DOT work crews. The use of GPR in an area of public safety has been well documented by locating the size and extent of washouts and sinkholes beneath highways.

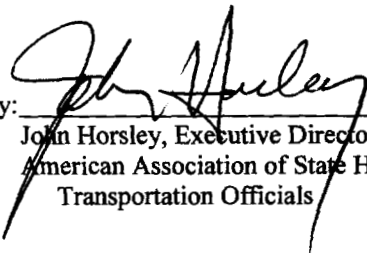
The GPR is a non-destructive, non-invasive instrument that allows the user to determine all types of anomalies beneath the surface. The GPR is a cost-effective tool that minimizes user costs by allowing DOT's to concentrate on localized areas for repair work. GRP systems are tuned to operate at specific central frequencies. This means that the user must have several GPR units available depending on the depth and size of the defect being detected.

GPR has been used to evaluate airport runways without disruption of the airport facility; it has been used by the American military and is used in a growing number of foreign countries. To limit its use in the USA would only limit innovation and productivity in America while allowing other nationalities to continue development and implementation.

We have reviewed the waiver submitted by Geophysical Survey Systems Inc., GSSI. We believe that the granting of the waiver will address the concerns of our members. We urge the Commission to consider the importance of the use of non-contact ground penetrating radars in maintaining our nations surface transportation system.

WHEREFORE, THE PREMISES CONSIDERED, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials respectfully submit that the Commission should grant the waiver requested by GSSI in its entirety.

Respectfully submitted,
American Association of State Highway and
Transportation Officials,

By: 
John Horsley, Executive Director
American Association of State Highway and
Transportation Officials

November 2, 2004